

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 03560 091429Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /054 W
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P R 091320Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 175

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SP

SUBJECT: SOUTHERN EUROPEAN SOCIALIST CONFERENCE, PSOE

"FESTIVAL OF LIBERTY"

REF: MADRID 3452

1. FELIPE GONZALEZ' PSOE HOSTED THE SECOND "CONFERENCE OF
SOCIALIST PARTIES OF SOUTERN EUROPE" MAY 7-8 AT A MADRID
CONVENTION CENTER. AMONG THE PARTICIPANTS WERE LEADERS OF
THE "CO-ORGANIZING" PSF (MITTERAND), PSI (CRAXI), PSP
(SOARES), AND EVEN THE BELGIAN PSB AS WELL AS INVITED GUESTS
FROM THE GREEK PASOK, YUGOSLAV SOCIALIST ALLIANCE, AND
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PAGE 02 MADRID 03560 091429Z

EXILED CHILEAN SOCIALIST GROUPS. BERNT CARLSSON
REPRESENTED THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL.

2. THE MAY 7 OPENING SESSION FEATURED SPEECHES ALL AROUND,
WITH THE INTERVENTION OF MARIO SOARES, WHO POINTED TO THE
DIFFICULTY OF BUILDING SOCIALISM IN THE MIDST OF AN ECONOMIC
CRISIS, ELICITING THE BULK OF THE PRESS COMMENTARY (WHERE

IT WAS INTERPRETED TO BE A JUSTIFICATION FOR SOARES' CLOSE TIES WITH AND ACCEPTANCE OF LARGE-SCALE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FROM THE U.S.). GONZALEZ COMPLIMENTED SOARES RATHER EFFUSIVELY AND EMPHASIZED TO THE AUDIENCE THAT IT WAS "ONE THING TO TALK POLITICS, QUITE ANOTHER TO MAKE POLITICS." PCE SEC GEN CARRILLO AND BASQUE NATIONALIST PARTY (PNV) NOTABLE JULIO JAUREGUI WERE IN THE AUDIENCE AS INVITED GUESTS.

3. IN THE EVENING, MITTERAND, SOARES AND CRAXI JOINED GONZALEZ AT THE PSOE'S UNOFFICIAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN KICK-OFF "FESTIVAL OF LIBERTY" AT A MADRID SOCCER STADIUM. A CROWD ESTIMATED TO BE AROUND 100,000 CAME AND WENT DURING THE SIX HOUR CARNIVAL-LIKE FIESTA, WHICH OFFERED EVERYTHING FROM MERRY-GO-ROUNDS AND ROCK MUSIC TO POLITICAL SPEECHES. GONZALEZ PRESENTED THE PSOE'S MADRID SLATE OF CANDIDATES, WHICH HE HEADS, AND THE VISITING SOCIALIST DIGNITARIES ADDRESSED THE THRONG. SOARES WAS HECKLED, APPARENTLY BY FAR-LEFT ELEMENTS IN THE AUDIENCE WHO CHANTED THEIR SOLIDARITY WITH OTELO. (THE BULK OF THOSE IN ATTENDANCE WERE PSOE MEMBERS OR SYMPATHIZERS, BUT THE FESTIVAL EXPECTEDLY DREW A MELANGE OF LEFT AND FAR-LEFT POLITICAL TYPES.) THERE WERE NO REPORTED DISTURBANCES, AND THE PSOE IS OBVIOUSLY JUBILANT OVER THE SUCCESS OF THE RALLY AND THE CROWD.'

4. THE CONFERENCE ITSELF CLOSED MAY 8 WITH THE READING OF VARIOUS "NON-BINDING" COMMITTEE REPORTS (REFTEL) BEFORE AN AUDIENCE OF SOME 1,500, WHICH INCLUDED INVITED GUESTS JOAQUIN SATRUSTEGUI, "DEMOCRATIC UNITY" SENATORIAL CANDIDATE, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MADRID 03560 091429Z

AND FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER AREILZA. AT THIS CLOSING SESSION, GONZALEZ MADE A POINT AGAIN OF PRAISING SOARES AND OF THANKING HIM FOR HIS SUPPORT OF THE PSOE, AND THE PORTUGUESE LEADER WAS GIVEN A VERY WARM SEND-OFF AS HE DEPARTED EARLY IN ORDER TO RETURN TO LISBON.

5. THE CONFERENCE-FESTIVAL TANDEM PROVIDED THE PSOE WITH PRECISELY THE ELECTORAL PUBLICITY THE PARTY DESIRED. WE WILL REPORT FURTHER ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE CONFERENCE AFTER WE HAVE SPOKEN THIS WEEK WITH PSOE LEADERS. STABLER

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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